

**BRINDA JEGATHEESAN, M.Ed., Ph.D**  
**University of Washington**  
**Miller Hall 322J, Campus Box 353600**  
**Seattle, WA 98195-3600**  
**(206) 321-5360**  
**Email: brinda@u.washington.edu**

## **EDUCATION**

---

- Ph.D University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Special Education  
(Concentration in Cultural Studies and Interpretive Research) (2005)  
Dissertation: Ways of Being at Home and Community: Language Socialization of Children  
with Autism in Multilingual South Asian Immigrant Families.
- M.Ed University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Educational Foundations (Focus: Socio-  
Cultural Contexts of Learning and Schooling & Disability) (2000)  
Thesis: In Pursuit of a Dream: Culture and Thought in the Academic Achievement of East  
Indians in the United States.
- B.A Bangalore University, India (Majors: Psychology, Sociology, English) (1985)

## **CERTIFICATION**

---

- Japanese Language Written and Spoken Proficiency Certification, Ministry of Education, Japan
- TESOL (Teaching English to Students of Other Languages), Regional English Language Center,  
Singapore & Sheffield Hallem University, U.K.
- French Language Certification, Alliance Francaise de L'Inde

## **LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

---

English, Hindi, Tamil, Japanese, Malay, French

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

---

- July 2006- Present Assistant Professor  
Human Development & Cognition/Early Childhood & Family Studies  
University of Washington
- 07/2005- 04/2006 Visiting Research Specialist, College of Education, University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign
- 09/2001-12/2003 Teaching Assistant, Department of Special Education, University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign
- 09/2000- 05/2001 Research Assistant, Early Childhood Research Institute on Culturally and  
Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) for Children with Special Needs,  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Responsibilities included identifying, reviewing and evaluating culturally and linguistically appropriate materials of multicultural early childhood/early childhood special education, and early intervention.

1991-1998 Language Teacher, Singapore Japanese Primary School, Singapore

1990 ESL teacher [High School National Service Reserves],  
Singapore Armed Forces, Khatib Airbase Division, Singapore

### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

---

Bilingual Special Education	Multicultural issues in autism and language socialization, disability, culture and religion, ethnomedical beliefs, bioethics and early intervention
Sociolinguistics	ELL parent-child communication and early childhood education, language socialization in bilingual and multilingual communities
Socialization	Interpretive knowledge, play and toys across cultures, empathy and compassion in a cross cultural perspective, child-pet interaction and socio-emotional development in early childhood
Qualitative Methods	Ethnographic methods, case study methods, portraiture, discourse analysis, cross cultural comparative methods

### **COURSES TAUGHT (2002-2008)**

---

- Educational Psychology 536: Immigrant and Indigenous children: Socio-Cultural & Psychological Contexts of Development & Learning
- Educational Psychology 519: Communication, Culture and ELL Exceptional Children
- Educational Psychology 582 B: Foundations of Ethnographic Method & Theory
- Educational Psychology EDPSY 490 E: Case Study Methods (2003, 2004, 2005) (Co-instructor with Dr. Robert E. Stake)
- Educational Psychology 582 A: Disability, Society & Culture
- Early Childhood & Family Studies (ECFS) 419: Families and Young Children with Special and Diverse Needs
- Early Childhood & Family Studies (ECFS) 401: Understanding Early Childhood and Family Studies Research
- Curriculum & Instruction 365: Language Literacy in Early Childhood Education, Pre K-3
- Special Education: Introduction to Mental Retardation
- Special Education: Introduction to Serving Students with Special Needs
- Special Education: Teaching Students with Special Needs in a Regular Classroom
- Special Education: The Culture of Special Education Across the Lifespan

## HONORS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

---

- 2004 *Fellow*, Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society Dissertation Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2001 *Fellowship*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2000 *Fellowship*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 1998 *Dean's List*, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu
- 1996 *Speaker of the Year*, Singapore  
Regional East Asian Japanese Speech Congregation,  
Speech Title: *Sekai no Kodomotachi to Hinkon* (State of the World's Children in Poverty)

## GRANTS

---

- Jegatheesan, Brinda. (Co-PI., under review).  
University of Washington Preparing Leaders in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (UWEC Leadership Project). Office of Special Education Programs.
- Jegatheesan, Brinda (P.I., 12/2007).  
Title: The Impact of Culture on the Human-Animal Bond: A Cross Cultural Study with Young Children Waltham and AAH/ABV Center, United Kingdom. [*Funded \$ 20,960 for 1.5 years*]
- Jegatheesan, Brinda (P.I., 03/2007)  
Title: Diagnosis and Post-Diagnosis Period: Needs and Supports Reported by Asian Immigrant Families of Young Children with Developmental Disabilities.  
ARC of Washington. [*Funded \$ 25,000 for 1 year*]
- Jegatheesan, Brinda (P.I., 2003). University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Language Learning Dissertation Grant, Language Learning Center, University of Michigan.
- Jegatheesan, Brinda (P.I., 2003). University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Dissertation Travel Grant.
- Jegatheesan, Brinda (P.I., 2002). University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Parent Involvement in Islamic Families of Children with Autism.  
Phi Delta Kappa Research Grant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Jegatheesan, Brinda (P.I., 2001). University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Early Research Grant: Students with Disabilities and their Service Dogs: An Empirical Study on Quality of Life Outcomes. Special Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## CURRENT PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

---

- Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)  
American Anthropological Association (AAA)  
International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities (IASSID)

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)  
Division of Early Childhood (DEC)  
International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ).

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

---

- 2006-Present    Development of the New Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood and Family Studies Program, College of Education.
- Development of curriculum, preparation of syllabi for new courses, identification of curricular materials for EC library, site observations (preschools, early childhood programs) for EC student placements, building community ties with under-served and under-represented minority communities.
- In press        Jegatheesan, Brinda (Invited Volume Editor) *Access, A Zone of Comprehension, and Intrusion*. In *Advances in Program Evaluation Series*, Elsevier Science: UK
- 2008            Invited Session Organizer (2008), International Conference on Social Science Methodology (RC33), Naples, Italy. Topic- *Ethics in Ethnography: Disability and Health Research with Vulnerable Populations*
- 2007-present:    Faculty Member; Steering Committee of Disability Studies Program, University of Washington, Seattle
- 2007-present:    Faculty Member; Early Childhood Environmental Education Program Development, University of Washington, Seattle
- 2007            Reviewer, of a chapter in the *Handbook on Implementing Evidence Based Academic Interventions*. Oxford University Press.
- 2006            Guest Presenter, EDPSY 587 Qualitative Methods, University of Washington
- 2006            Guest Presenter, EDSPE 515 Special Education, University of Washington
- 2006            Reviewer, Teacher Education
- 2006            Faculty Advisor, Jump Start Early Learning Program, UW.  
Development of course syllabus, teaching and on-going advising of Jumpstart staff
- 2006            Co-instructor, *Pets in the Early Childhood Classrooms*. Early Childhood Educators' Workshop, Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle, Washington  
A workshop and curriculum to assist teachers and childcare providers with the selection and care of appropriate small animals in classrooms for teaching science, social interaction, animal behavior, compassion and responsibility.
- 2005            Reviewer, Qualitative Inquiry
- 2003 - 2005      Workshops – *South Asian Muslim Parents of Children with Disabilities*, The Agha Khan

Foundation, Illinois

- 2002 In-Service: *Critical Issues in Teaching Children with Special Needs in Multicultural and Multilingual Hawaii*, Variety School for Children with Autism and Learning Disabilities, Honolulu, Hawaii
- 2002 Reviewer, American Education Research Association
- 2001 Reviewer, Teacher Education and Special Education

### **PUBLICATIONS** (Peer Reviewed & Invited)

---

Jegatheesan, B (in preparation) Not Quite an Insider! The Predicament of Trust and the Cultural Politics of Fieldwork with Asian Immigrant Families of Children with Developmental Disabilities in the Pacific Northwest. *Qualitative Inquiry*

Jegatheesan, B (in preparation). Learning How to Pray: The Qur'anic Schooling of a South Asian Boy with Autism in the U.S: A Case Study. *Bilingual Research Journal*

Jegatheesan, B., Miller, P., & Fowler, S (under review). Autism from a Religious Perspective: A Study of Parental Beliefs in South Asian Muslim Immigrant Families. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*.

Jegatheesan, B., Fowler, S., & Miller, P (under review). From Symptom Recognition to Services: How South Asian Muslim Immigrant Families Navigate Autism. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*.

Jegatheesan, B., & Meadan, H (under review). Pets and Young Children: Supporting Early Development. *Young Children*

West., E, & Jegatheesan, B (under review). Rethinking Functional Skills for Minority Children with Severe Disabilities, *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities*

Stake, R., & Jegatheesan, B (in press). *Access, A Zone of Comprehension, and Intrusion*. In Advances in Program Evaluation Series, Elsevier Science: UK

Jegatheesan, Brinda (Invited, in press). Autism: A Cultural Understanding of Autism in South Asian Muslim Families. In Shweder, R.A., Bidell, T., Dailey, A., Dixon, S., Miller, P.J., & Modell, J. *The Chicago Companion to the Child*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Jegatheesan, B., & Meadan, H (2006). Pets in the Classroom: Promoting and Enhancing the Socio-Emotional Wellness of Young Children. *Young Exceptional Children Monograph*, 8, 1-12.

Jegatheesan, Brinda (2005). I See the Stars: An Autoethnographer Speaks on Fieldwork and Flashbacks. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 11 (5), 667-688

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS** (Peer reviewed & Invited)

---

Jegatheesan, Brinda (under review). From symptom recognition to services: How South Asian Muslim immigrant families navigate autism. *International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities*. Cape Town, S. Africa

Jegatheesan, Brinda & Braun, Kara (under review). Knowledge of autism and diagnostic practices in health care settings: Descriptions from 17 Asian immigrant families in the United States. *International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities*, Cape Town, S. Africa

Jegatheesan, Brinda (under review). Transcending disability, transforming life: An ethnographic study of a graduate student with an acquired disability and her service dog. *International Society for Anthrozoology*, Toronto, CA.

Jegatheesan, Brinda (Invited, 2008), Privacy, Intrusion and Ethics in Ethnographic Research *International Conference on Social Science Methodology (RC33)*, Naples, Italy. [To be presented]

Jegatheesan, Brinda (2008). Wisdom from Fieldwork: Methodological Issues in Working with Asian Immigrant Families of Children with Developmental Disabilities in the Pacific Northwest. *International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry*, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. [To be presented]

Jegatheesan, B., & Witz, K. (2007). Using the Essentialist Methodology to Understand a Child's Consciousness and Spiritual Development: A Portraiture of a Muslim child with a Sibling with Autism [To be presented]

Jegatheesan, Brinda., & Fowler, Susan (2007). From Symptom Recognition to Services: The Early Experiences of South Asian Muslim Immigrant Families who have Children with Autism. *Division of Early Childhood*, Niagara Falls, Canada

West, Elizabeth., & Jegatheesan, Brinda (2007). Rethinking Functional Skills for Minority Children with Severe Disabilities. *The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps (TASH)*, Seattle, WA

Jegatheesan, Brinda (Invited, 2007). Diagnosis and Post-Diagnosis Period: The Experiences of South Asian Islamic Immigrant Families with Children with Autism in the U.S. *The Conference on Early Learning*, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Stake, R., & Jegatheesan, B (Invited, 2006).Continuously Re-Negotiating Access to Distant Habitants. Pre-Conference Half-Day Workshop. *International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry*, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

Stake, R., & Jegatheesan, B (2006). The Missing Page in NAEP, the National Report Card: Experience of Becoming Educated. *International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry*, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Jegatheesan, B (2006). Lifting the Veil: Research Etiquette, Fieldwork Anxieties and South Asian Islam in USA. *International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry*, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Stake, R., Jegatheesan, B., Lincoln, Y., & Denzin, N (2005). Case Studies: Access and Intrusion. Pre-Conference Half-Day Workshop. *International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry*, Champaign-Urbana,

Jegatheesan, B., Stake, R., Denzin, N., Erickson, F., & DeStefano, L (2005). Fieldwork among Strangers: Access, Comprehension and Intrusion. *Annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA)* Montreal, Canada.

Jegatheesan, Brinda (2004). Special Education and Pakistani Parents of Children with Autism in the United States: Disability, Diversity and Disadvantage. *Society for Disability Studies Annual Conference*, Missouri, St. Louis.

Jegatheesan, Brinda (2004). A Cross-Cultural Study on Spiritual Beliefs and Practices on Educational Achievement, Giftedness and Talent: Case Studies of Asian Indian Immigrant Families. Annual meeting of the *American Educational Research Association (AERA)* San Diego, California

Jegatheesan, Brinda (2004). Prayers, Talismans and Pundits: Understanding the Role of Faith when Providing Early Intervention Services to South Asian Families and their Children with Disabilities. *Annual meeting of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)* Chicago,

Jegatheesan, Brinda (2003). Struggles and Rewards: Parent Involvement in Muslim Families of Children with Autism. *Division for Early Childhood*, Washington, D.C

Jegatheesan, Brinda (2003). Parent-Focused Intervention for Children with Mental Retardation: A Functional Model of Early Intervention in India. *Division for Early Childhood*, Washington, D. C

Jegatheesan, Brinda (2003). Maternal Involvement in the Schooling of Asian Indian Students: An Ethnographic Study. *Annual Meeting of Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference*. PA

Jegatheesan, B., Fowler, S., & Witz, K (2003). In-depth Portraits of Students with Disabilities and their Service Dogs: An Essentialist Research on Quality of Life Outcomes. *Annual meeting of the American Education Research Association (AERA)*, Chicago, Illinois.

Jegatheesan, Brinda (1999). Special Education, Culture and Disability Awareness among Asian Americans. *Hawaii Educational Research Association (HERA)*, Honolulu, Hawaii